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On the Population and Mortality of Calcutta. By LIEUT.-COLONEL
W. H. SYKES, F.R.S.

[*Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association at York,
September 26th, 1844.*]

THE following paper is derived chiefly from a Report to the Government of Bengal by Dr. Strong, the civil surgeon of the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, and partly from Mr. Griffith Davies's Report on the State of the Bengal Military Fund; the basis on which the per centages are struck is a census* of the population of Calcutta, prepared by Capt. Birch, superintendent of police, in 1837, composed as follows:—

Population of the City of Calcutta.

—	Males.	Females.	—	Males.	Females.
English . . .	1,953	1,185	Chinese . . .	243	119
Eurasians . . .	2,950	1,796	Madrassies . . .	30	25
Portuguese . . .	1,715	1,475	Native Christians.	30	19
French	101	59	Hindoos	85,145	52,506
Armenians . . .	465	171	Mahomedans . . .	38,934	19,810
Jews	185	122	Low Castes . . .	12,074	7,010
Moguls	314	195		144,893	84,812
Parsees	32	8			
Arabs	272	79			
Mugs	450	233	Total . . .	229,705	

Setting aside all question of religious persuasion, it may thus be said that the population of Calcutta is made up of nearly 16 nations; for though the Moguls and Arabs are Mahomedans like the Mahomedans of Calcutta, they are from widely separated parts of the East; and though the Eurasians, or half castes, are the descendants of Europeans, they are necessarily a distinct people. The low castes, although natives of Calcutta, are separated by such wide religious and moral barriers from the rest of the community, that they also must be looked upon as a distinct people. Few cities, therefore, can exhibit such heterogeneous constituents as Calcutta, the remarks probably applying equally to the other Presidencies of India.

One anomalous feature in the census of Calcutta cannot fail to strike the eye of the statistician, and that is, the singular disproportion of the sexes, not only in the European population, but in every other class whatever. Amongst the English and French, and probably also amongst

* *Note by the Superintendent of Police.*—This census took a period of eight months in perfecting, and was subjected to several tests at the time, and has since been confirmed by a register of births and deaths for one year. The proportion of deaths to population being, according to the census, 3·13 per cent. per annum nearly; that of London is 2·16; which, allowing for difference of climate, is strongly confirmatory of the correctness of the census.

the Armenians and Chinese, this disproportion might be accounted for by the fact that they are only sojourners in a foreign land, and the great majority have not their families with them. But this argument will not apply to the Portuguese and half castes who are natives of the soil, and amongst whom the ordinary law regulating the relative proportions of the sexes should prevail. It might be said that the extreme reserve of the Mahomedans on the subject of their females might induce them to conceal the real numbers of their women; but this does not apply to the mass of the Hindoos, and least of all to the low castes, who have not any reserve at all in the matter. I must unhesitatingly declare that the census is not at all in accordance with the census I myself effected in the Deccan, which included $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of souls, giving an average of 100 males to 94 females in the Poona collectorate, and 100 males to 98 females in the Dharwarr collectorate; and even in some towns the females exceeded the males, as in Bagulkoto, 100 males to 101·25 females, and in Gunness Pait, 100 males to 101·14 females, while in Calcutta, among the Hindoos, the males were 100 to 61·6 females, and among the Mahomedans 100 males to 50·8 females only.

Although the perverted will of man may, under certain circumstances, frustrate the perfect development of the ordinary laws of nature, as in the case of the Rajpoot populations of Kattywar and Cutch, yet it cannot be believed that in Calcutta any means whatever can be had recourse to to interrupt natural laws; either, therefore, the census is imperfect, or a physical fact exists of a most extraordinary and anomalous character, and in either case the matter calls for the careful consideration of the legislator and the philosopher.

The present table is auxiliary to the preceding, and shows the distribution of the population in the different districts of the suburbs, without distinguishing the sexes. It calls for no other than the passing remark, that it relates to the suburbs of Calcutta.

Census of the Population in the Suburbs of Calcutta.

Names of Thannahs.	No. of Villages.	No. of Mahals.	Resident Hindu Adults.	Hindu Children.	No. of Hindus in Service.	Resident Mussulman Adults.	Mussulman Children.	No. of Mussulmans in Service.	Native Lodgers or Passengers.	European Adults.	European Children.	East Indian Adults.	East Indian Children.	Total Inhabitants.
Thannah Sulkeah .	132	258	33,223	20,342	*8,106	12,154	4,395	*2,019	3,153	43	24	63	49	73,446
Ditto Chitpore . .	8	33	14,177	5,286	984	1,627	601	199	875	23	7	53	1	22,650
Ditto Manicktulah .	31	42	20,627	6,173	30,100	13,201	9,661	3,093	3,883	441	67	759	123	54,935
Ditto Tauzeeraut . .	29	84	22,032	5,349	1,120	8,601	2,755	647	5,072	54	15	45	27	43,950
Ditto Nowhazaree .	1	28	8,465	2,689	799	5,845	2,214	987	2,818	63	3	50	65	22,212
Grand Total														217,193

* The columns are not included in that of the Total.

The following table, on Dr. Strong's authority, exhibits the deaths monthly amongst the native population for a period of 11 years, the year

1831 being struck out as imperfect. In Europe it is found that the mortality follows very nearly the annual curve of temperature, the deaths being greatest in the winter months and least in the summer months. To this there is a singular exception, Dr. Alison finding that the maximum of deaths occurs in the month of April. The following table manifests the operation of the same law within the tropics, even to the exception. The annual average of deaths is 11.075: while the coldest months in the year—November, December, January, February, and March—approximate to, or are above, the average; while the mild and moist months of the year are all considerably below the average; April, as has been observed, is an exception, the greatest mortality occurring in this month. The hot season may be said to commence at the end of March, and its greatest intensity is towards the end of May and first week in June. The maximum mortality, therefore, is not dependent upon the maximum of heat. The rains commence usually before the middle of June, and the air then becomes mild and moist. The minimum mortality occurs in June, and it will be observed that it gradually increases with the monthly fall of temperature until November, when the greatest mortality occurs, excepting in the month of April. Considering that the thermometer never approaches the freezing point, it is somewhat curious that the relative cold of the tropics should appear to operate similarly upon the human frame as the absolute cold of extra-tropical countries. The fluctuations in the annual mortality in this table point out to the statistician with what caution he should strike his average per centages as types of natural laws. There is scarcely a period in the 11 years' mortality in which, if a per centage were struck for 3, or even 4 or 5 years, a fallacious result, a false type in fact, would not be produced, owing to the anomalies. Even the lengthened period of 11 years does not give a satisfactory annual per centage, more particularly so as the census of 1837 has been taken as a fixed element in the calculation, without reference to the annual movement in the population:—

Abstract Statement of Deaths among the Native Inhabitants of the City of Calcutta during the following Years, showing the Number per Month, the Grand Total, and the Average Rate per Cent. as per last Census.

Years.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Grand Total.	Average per Cent. per last Census.
1831	No Returns.		179	456	342	325	384	463	589	682	1,067	753	5,240	2.90
1832	880	571	691	637	754	511	616	759	885	951	938	1,065	9,308	4.28
1833	1,167	1,170	1,519	1,710	1,209	683	898	1,088	1,657	1,788	2,449	2,185	17,523	8.07
1834	1,068	732	891	1,326	1,296	589	958	1,224	983	1,193	1,564	1,238	13,067	6.02
1835	867	624	683	662	673	492	633	568	676	771	870	593	8,112	3.78
1836	637	535	680	692	629	600	628	733	638	770	713	641	7,895	3.63
1837	652	562	631	661	725	1,034	733	763	661	645	669	728	8,464	3.89
1838	674	721	1,651	2,389	1,434	549	487	632	663	628	767	798	11,393	5.24
1839	606	599	577	604	465	484	588	594	502	756	851	1,319	7,975	3.67
1840	1,326	1,356	1,349	1,095	854	555	746	807	834	706	1,101	1,001	11,730	5.40
1841	970	1,271	1,487	2,424	831	594	772	667	791	864	1,282	1,332	12,255	5.66
1842	2,132	2,241	1,132	2,199	1,037	445	618	634	586	851	1,172	1,069	14,111	6.52
	10,979	10,382	11,291	14,399	9,906	6,536	7,687	8,469	8,876	9,920	12,426	11,999	121,833	

Average 11.075

The following table exhibits the mortality among all classes in Calcutta for 20 years, but for the native population only 11 years. There are some trifling discrepancies in the annual amount of deaths among the natives between this and the preceding table, but I must leave them as I found them, being unable to explain the cause of the discrepancy:—

Deaths among all Classes in Calcutta, for 20 Years (1817—1836.)

Years.	Protestant	Burials.	Catholic Burials, D. Rozario.	Catholic Burials, Boitoekanah.	Greeks	Armenians	Indo-Armenians.	Native Christians
1817	216	Scotch burying-ground began 1826.	313	169	4	10	3	..
1818	272		211	159	2	20	3	..
1819	275		284	158	..	23	3	..
1820	231		282	136	..	17	1	..
1821	246		277	172	..	16	3	..
1822	324		294	140	..	16	2	..
1823	270		277	156	..	10	2	..
1824	278		282	188	..	21	1	..
1825	297		285	154	1	12	10	..
1826	275		309	145	2	19	17	..
1827	254		308	174	..	15	16	4
1828	256		250	170	2	15	12	3
1829	184		209	146	3	12	16	2
1830	224		236	133	1	14	15	..
1831	186		236	122	3	17	19	8
1832	217		269	121	1	17	16	1
1833	302		283	204	2	23	14	5
1834	281		257	199	2	16	17	4
1835	233		233	115	1	7	16	4
1836	197		188	104	..	15	13	3
	5,065	240	5,288	3,070	24	315	199	34
	20	10	20	20	12	20	20	9
Avg.	253	24	264	153	2	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	10	2 $\frac{1}{3}$

Native Deaths for 11 Years (1832—1842)

Hindoo . . 8,299	} 9,308 in 1832.	Hindoo . . 9,802	} 11,316 in 1838.
Mussulman . 1,009		Mussulman . 1,514	
Hindoo . . 15,138	} 17,523 in 1833.	Hindoo . . 6,570	} 7,975 in 1839.
Mussulman . 2,385		Mussulman . 1,405	
Hindoo . . 11,167	} 13,067 in 1834.	Hindoo . . 9,027	} 11,730 in 1840.
Mussulman . 1,900		Mussulman . 2,703	
Hindoo . . 6,873	} 8,102 in 1835.	Hindoo . . 8,667	} 12,255 in 1841.
Mussulman . 1,229		Mussulman . 3,588	
Hindoo . . 6,366	} 7,881 in 1836.	Hindoo . . 9,955	} 14,111 in 1842.
Mussulman . 1,515		Mussulman . 4,156	
Hindoo . . 7,097	} 8,464 in 1837.		
Mussulman . 1,367			

From the above are deduced the following results:—

Census of 1837.	Deaths. Per Cent.
157,473. The annual average of deaths for 11 years—Hindoos,	8,996= 5.71
59,604. Ditto ditto Mussulmans,	2,070= 3.47
3,350. The annual average of deaths for 20 years—Catholics,	417= 12.44

Mr. Griffith Davies, F.R.S., in his Report on the State of the Bengal Fund, gives, at page 49, the rate of mortality amongst Bengal Military European officers; and, as it shows some novel and interesting facts, I insert it.

The mortality of <i>single</i> persons from 1824 to 1832 was—				Ditto <i>married</i> —	
	Per Cent.			Per Cent.	
Colonels	7·02	4·12	{	4·85	3·75
Lieutenant-Colonels	6·38			3·92	
Majors	2·76			2·96	
Captains	4·18			2·55	
Lieutenants	3·74	3·76	{	2·06	2·31
Ensigns	3·61			1·59	
All ranks collectively	3·77			2·74	

It would hence appear that the lives of married men are better than those of unmarried men.

The following per centage of deaths by particular diseases in Calcutta is given in the report to Government by T. Pemble Strong, Esq, surgeon, Twenty-four Pergunnahs :—

By Diseases	{	Cholera	{	Amongst Mahomedans	0·92	Per Cent. of all Deaths.
			{	Amongst Hindoos	1·31	
	{	Small-pox	{	Amongst Mahomedans	11·9	
			{	Amongst Hindoos	22·8	
	{	Various Diseases	{	Amongst Mahomedans	1·73	
			{	Amongst Hindoos	3·80	

I add to the above details of the mortality in Calcutta a curious fact, that in the Orphan School in Calcutta only 1 death took place between 1st October, 1842, to 30th September, 1843, in 270 children, although the admissions to the school hospitals amounted to 381—cholera cases 9, diarrhœa 18, dysentery 43, fevers 198.

The average monthly cost of each of the 270 scholars was Rs.10 11A. 8½P. The out wards were 2,086; the monthly expense of each was Rs.3 9A. 6¾P.

Mortality among Insane Patients at Calcutta and Madras.

	Cases treated.	Died.	Deaths per Cent.
The deaths in the Calcutta Presidency Native Insane Asylum, in 10 years, from 1833 to 1842, were)	2,685	454	16·90
Madras Lunatic ditto for 1843	77*	7	9·1

* Cured 4, discharged 10.

The next table (p. 55) has the defect of the others, and from the same causes, of affording approximations to the truth only: it shows, however, the fluctuating per centages of mortality in the different classes, when struck for a year or irregular periods of time; and it is so far useful as a beacon to the statistician. One feature of a marked and unusual character catches the eye at the first glance, and that is, the mortality amongst the Catholics. The average per centages of mortality being struck for various periods of time, in no instances is it found to be less than 9·18 per cent.; and for 20 years, up to 1835, the average is as high as 12·48 per cent. I know of no cause for such continued mortality, but which cannot be the result of accident.

In the following tables, furnished by Dr. Strong, of the proportions of one class of the community to another, and the proportionate mortality of each class to that of other classes, it would appear that the whole of the Eurasians, or half castes, have been considered as Protestants; and the whole of the low castes have been added to the Hindoos. It would have been much more satisfactory had the relative proportions of each class been stated separately. The proportional mortality has been deduced from the average annual mortality, applied to the census of 1837, without reference to the annual movement of the population, the results are necessarily only approximations to the truth. I am not quite satisfied, either, that all the calculated proportions are correctly done. By the census of 1837 there are 59,604 Mahomedans of all nations, and 157,473 Hindoos of all castes; the proportion, therefore, is one Mahomedan to 2.64 Hindoos, and not 1 to 3½ Hindoos; but as some of the other proportions are correctly deduced from the census of 1837, the figure may be a typographical error. From this table it would appear that the Mahomedan is the healthiest class; the Protestant next; then follow the Armenians; the Hindoos are fifth on the scale; but most singularly the Catholics are, out of all proportion, the greatest sufferers of the whole community, not accidentally or casually so, but from a lengthened period; and as there is no effect without its cause, this unusual waste of human life calls for the grave investigation of the Government; and not less, also, is it matter of inquiry to ascertain why the mortality of the Hindoos is 5.71 per cent. while that of the Mahomedans is only 3.47.

PROPORTIONS.

<i>Census.</i>				Hindoos.
Armenians, 1 to	Catholics, 1 to	Mahomedans, 1 to		3½
		Protestants, 1 to		20
		2½		47½
		12½		247½

Annual Mortality.

				Catholics.
Mahomedans, 1 to	Protestants, 1 to	Hindoos, 1 to		1½
		Armenians, 1 to		1¼
		1½		3½
		1½		4½

The following table of the deaths amongst prisoners formed part of Dr. Strong's Report to Government, and is introduced here to exhibit the effects of the climate of Calcutta and neighbourhood upon a class of persons, who elsewhere, although employed upon the public roads, and usually in the open air, are dreadful sufferers. The mortality (nearly 8 per cent.) is no doubt high, but it bears a favourable comparison with the mortality in many other jails in India.

Abstract Statement of Deaths among the Prisoners of the Allipore and Russapagar Jails, and different Guards in the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, during the following years, showing Number per Month, the Grand Total, and the average Rate per Cent.—1711³⁵, being the average Number of Prisoners throughout the period; more than two thirds of those are Prisoners for life, the rest temporary, like all other Zillah Prisoners; showing the three months of greater Mortality to be the cold-weather months, as in Calcutta.

Years.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.	
	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.
1820	1,533	30	1,903	13	1,996	20	1,921	16	1,940	16	1,831	9	1,807	16
1821	1,816	17	1,809	10	1,832	11	1,927	12	1,974	11	1,995	7	1,894	10
1822	1,795	18	1,805	7	1,879	13	1,799	11	1,848	4	1,851	3	1,889	9
1823	1,629	11	1,644	10	1,595	10	1,593	7	1,635	6	1,571	10	1,511	10
1824	1,481	6	1,529	11	1,426	9	1,375	6	1,403	8	1,328	11	1,228	8
1825	1,599	6	1,498	10	1,434	17	1,463	18	1,249	17	1,187	8	1,139	9
1826	1,117	7	1,137	4	1,158	2	1,161	3	1,129	14	1,142	6	1,148	6
1827	1,179	6	1,212	4	1,116	7	1,153	7	1,226	15	1,232	1	1,298	2
1828	1,327	11	1,153	7	1,160	23	1,299	11	1,338	7	1,304	5	1,287	8
1829	1,327	15	1,289	4	1,376	6	1,330	12	1,395	6	1,386	5	1,434	8
1830	1,436	3	1,552	6	1,457	8	1,497	4	1,536	6	1,536	10	1,564	4
1831	1,474	19	1,555	10	1,586	11	1,651	9	1,632	16	1,619	11	1,635	7
1832	2,219	23	2,013	13	1,924	22	1,909	11	1,944	10	1,984	16	2,227	4
1833	2,067	12	2,118	13	2,372	28	2,170	11	1,918	7	2,117	10	1,952	10
1834	2,322	18	2,807	32	2,317	13	2,154	14	2,147	9	2,111	10	1,988	6
1835	2,109	23	2,184	7	2,211	11	2,037	13	2,035	14	2,225	9	2,118	8
1836	1,806	8	1,776	5	1,720	3	1,894	9	1,829	6	1,795	7	2,103	7
1837	2,021	10	1,928	13	1,953	9	1,947	4	1,982	8	1,984	15	1,912	8
1838	2,025	8	2,046	7	2,159	8	2,143	11	2,121	12	2,203	10	2,237	5
1839	2,213	10	2,242	12	2,130	8	2,089	13	2,109	8	2,087	16	2,125	9
	34,747	261	35,224	159	34,881	239	34,512	202	34,390	200	34,489	166	34,526	161
Per cent. } per ann. }	1,737	904	1,761	539	1,744	820	1,726	701	1,719	700	1,724	574	1,226	552

Years.	August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Grand Total of Prisoners.	Grand Total of Deaths.	Average Number of Prisoners.	Deaths per Cent.
	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Prisoners.	No. of Deaths.				
1820	1,821	9	1,700	11	1,705	13	1,681	10	1,750	16	21,888	179	1,824	9.81
1821	1,778	16	1,772	20	1,762	9	1,759	24	1,762	20	22,080	170	1,840	9.24
1822	1,691	11	1,612	11	1,597	20	1,571	9	1,544	14	20,871	130	1,739	7.47
1823	1,416	12	1,386	10	1,404	14	1,399	9	1,385	9	18,163	118	1,514	7.79
1824	1,293	7	1,290	11	1,295	3	1,491	4	1,539	4	16,698	87	1,391	6.25
1825	1,151	13	1,051	15	1,173	8	1,122	12	1,088	7	15,154	140	1,263	11.08
1826	1,138	7	1,157	3	1,177	6	1,113	3	1,140	6	13,697	67	1,141	5.87
1827	1,404	5	1,210	7	1,271	8	1,242	6	1,198	5	14,641	73	1,220	5.98
1828	1,298	3	1,327	3	1,287	6	1,365	6	1,303	10	15,454	100	1,288	7.76
1829	1,466	5	1,386	6	1,459	3	1,487	4	1,886	12	17,221	86	1,435	5.99
1830	1,573	10	1,566	8	1,553	23	1,521	29	1,889	21	18,730	134	1,561	8.58
1831	1,615	11	1,545	12	1,531	29	1,945	29	2,081	23	19,893	187	1,658	11.27
1832	2,047	11	1,706	12	1,964	19	2,153	24	1,909	27	23,999	176	2,000	8.80
1833	1,991	21	2,037	23	2,217	37	2,057	33	2,209	29	25,285	231	2,107	10.96
1834	1,873	16	1,879	17	1,896	28	1,785	19	1,913	22	25,191	189	2,099	9.61
1835	2,013	8	2,002	9	1,843	7	1,836	7	1,883	10	24,500	124	2,042	6.07
1836	2,024	11	1,869	8	1,733	12	1,706	13	1,876	11	22,272	100	1,836	5.38
1837	1,916	8	1,939	6	1,938	8	1,961	12	2,048	10	23,529	101	1,961	5.15
1838	2,191	9	2,221	12	2,160	11	2,155	13	2,165	19	25,826	129	2,152	5.99
1839	2,170	6	2,217	5	2,179	11	2,175	16	2,062	19	25,800	129	2,150	6.0
	33,753	202	32,872	209	33,284	275	33,553	282	34,656	294	410,892	2,650	34,241	7.75
Per cent. } per ann. }	1,687	717	1,643	761	1,664	991	1,677	1,007	1,732	1,016	1,712	..

These details have little beyond novelty to give them a claim to the attention of the statistician of Europe. The elements on the face of them give rise to doubts of their accuracy, and the deductions from them necessarily have not that rigid character of truth which would admit of their being put into juxtaposition with deductions of a similar nature obtained in Europe; but they have a certain amount of interest, so far as they go; and in time it is to be hoped that such attention will be paid to statistics in India as will permit the facts collected to be placed in the same category with those obtained in Europe.

Statistics of the Hospitals for the Insane under the Bengal Presidency.

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[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association at York,
September 28th, 1844.]

THE following tables and notes are derived from the Official Reports of the proper Officers to the Government of Bengal.

There are four hospitals for the insane under the Presidency of Bengal, namely, that of the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, otherwise Russa, that of Moorshedabad, of Dacca, and of Patna.

The rate of cure and mortality in the years 1839 and 1840, in the several insane hospitals, is shown in the following statement:—

Division.	Year.	In Hos- pital on 1st January	Ad- mitted in the Year.	Total.	Number Cured and dis- charged.	Rate of Cures.	Number Died.	Rate of Mor- tality.
Twenty-four Pergun- nahs, or Russa	1839	133	130	263	95	$36\frac{1}{8}$	34	13
	1840	133	125	258	80	31	28	11
Moorshedabad	1839	63	43	106	26	$24\frac{1}{2}$	25	$23\frac{1}{2}$
	1840	55	42	97	38	$39\frac{1}{2}$	8	$8\frac{2}{10}$
Dacca	1839	87	98	185	60	$32\frac{80}{185}$	17	$9\frac{35}{185}$
	1840	108	86	194	48	$24\frac{44}{194}$	24	$12\frac{72}{194}$
Patna.	1839	41	44	85	18	21	28	32
	1840	39	48	87	32	32	18	21

The average cures in all the hospitals in 1839 were 31·7 per cent., and the deaths were 16·2 per cent. In 1840 the cures were 31·1 per cent., and the deaths 12·2 per cent.

The rate of mortality in the Calcutta Native Insane Hospital for 10 years, from 1833 to 1842, is stated to be 16·90 per cent., there having been 2,685 cases treated, of which 454 patients died.

In the Madras Lunatic Asylum for 1843 there were 77 patients treated, of whom 4 were discharged cured, and 10 discharged not cured, and 7 died, or only 9·3 per cent.

With reference to the very large per centage of discharged cured in the above and the following tables, I understand that lunatics, whose malady has become so much ameliorated as to render them harmless, are frequently sent to their friends, and are included amongst those stated to be discharged cured.

The following table exhibits the admissions into the hospital of the